

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00561 270839Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00

/087 W

----- 071405

R 241045Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2020

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IZ, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ

REF: DAMASCUS 1733 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING PAST MONTH NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS AND RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED WHICH APPEAR AS ATTEMPTS TO DENIGRATE IRAQI REGIME. MOST NOTABLE EXAMPLES WERE REPORT THAT SEVEN IRAQI FIGHTER PILOTS DEFECTED TO SYRIA WITH A/C; REPORT THAT 40 KURDS WERE EXECUTED IN ARBIL (PICKED UP AND REPORTED BY HOGALAND IN WASHINGTON POST); AND ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00561 270839Z

OF MILITARY MEN IN BAGHDAD (DAMASCUS 1705). IRAQI REGIME HAS NOT

ATTEMPTED TO DENY OR EVEN MENTIONED THERE REPORTS AND CONTINUES TO BAN ANTI-SYRIAN PROPAGANDA.

2. I HAVE DISCUSSED ABOVE REPORTS WITH NUMEROUS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND WHAT EMERGES IS STRONG BELIEF THAT ALL THESE REPORTS ARE PART OF SYRIAN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AL-NAGGAR TOLD ME THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO REPORTED DEFECTION OF SEVEN PILOTS. HE SAID SYRIANS HAD PUT IRAQI MARKINGS ON PLANES AND STAGED DEFECTION AND THEN ORIGINATED REPORT. AL-NAGGAR FURTHERMORE STRONGLY BELIEVES SOVIETS ARE ENCOURAGING SYRIANS IN THIS AND OTHER DISINFORMATION AS WELL AS TACITLY AGREEING TO WITHHOLDING OF EUPHRATES WATER TO DEMONSTRATE DISPLEASURE OVER IRAQI-IRANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT.

3. I HAVE THROUGHOUT CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH BRITISH EMBASSY AND AM CONFIDENT THAT IT DID NOT REPORT DEFECTION OF PILOTS AS ANYTHING BUT RUMOR (CONTRARY TO BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN DAMASCUS 1693). BRITISH NOW AGREE SYRIANS WERE ORIGINATORS OF RUMOR.

4. WITH REGARD TO EXECUTION OF KURDS, YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TOLD ME ONE OF HIS TECHNICAL EXPERS HAD SEEN THREE PUBLIC HANGINGS IN ARBIL TWO WEEKS AGO, BUT HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THEY WERE KURDS OR WHAT WAS REASON FOR EXECUTION. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR CLAIMS NO MASS EXECUTION TOOK PLACE AND AGAIN BLAMES IT ON SYRIAN DISINFORMATION.

5. WITH REGARD TO BAGHDAD EXECUTIONS (DAMASCUS 1705), LIST OF PERSONS IS QUESTIONABLE SINCE NUMBER OF THEM REPORTEDLY KILLED IN QASR NIHAYA WHICH, IN FACT, WAS DEMOLISHED SHORTLY AFTER JUNE 1973 ABORTIVE COUP. I AM TRYING TO DEVELOP INFO ON NAMES. IT IS POSSIBLE THESE PERSONS WERE EXECUTED SOME TIME AGO AND SYRIANS SURFACED LIST FOR CURRENT CAMPAIGN.

6. EVEN IF SYRIAN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN IS FACT, IT DOES NOT NECESSARY FOLLOW THAT ASAD REGIME HAS NO BASIS FOR ANTI-IRAQI ACTIONS. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR CHAMMAS BELIEVES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IRAQI REGIME, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, HAVE MADE STRONG EFFORT TO TOPPLE ASAD REGIME. HE HAS HEARD THAT RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00561 270839Z

ARE NOW CAUSE OF MAJOR CONFLICT WITHIN REGIME, WITH BAATH PAN-ARAB LEADERSHIP WHICH INCLUDES AT LEAST FIVE SYRIAN EXILES, TAKING HARDEST LINE. CHAMMAS ALSO SUSPECTS THAT SOVIETS ARE ENCOURAGING SYRIANS. CHAMMAS IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE OF SPILLOVER EFFECT OF SYRIAN-IRAQI RIVALRY INTO LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN CONFRONTATION. LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO CURTAIL IRAQI ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON THROUGH QUITE DIPLOMACY.

7. REF DAMASCUS 1693; FOR THE RECORD MICHEL AFLAQ LIVES IN BEIRUT
NOT BAGHDAD ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN VISITING ABOUT EVERY THREE MONTHS
DURING PAST YEAR.
LOWRIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, WATER RIGHTS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0551
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750519/aaaaaqij.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 1733
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IZ, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006